(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps takervforoposed to be taken by Government to combat bio-terrorism and give civilians a helping hand to grapple with bio-terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four training courses of 4 days duration to officers of State Governments has been planned in the last week of November 2001. Each batch will have theoretical and practical sessions to deal with various aspects of problems.

(c) Government has circulated general instructions on the subject to all authorities of health Departments of centre and State/UT Governments and hospitals. These instructions inlcude likely method of dissemination of biological and chemical agents, incubation period, lethality, availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment. The other measures include conducting awareness workshops, dissemination of information through print and electronic media and reviewing the situation regularly.

Strategy for self-reliance in spares for JAF

316. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any strategy to lessen the Indian Air Force's dependence on foreign suppliers for spares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is facing problems in getting spares from abroad due to closure of production units especially from the erstwhile USSR;

(d) if so, how IAF is managing the spares; and

(e) the measures adopted to achieve self-reliance in the field?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee with representatives of IAF, HAL, DRDO,

Defence PSUs and Inspection and Certification agencies like Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) & Director General Aeronautics Quality & Assurance (DGAQA), as members, has been formed on 19th January, 2000 to look into the requirement of spares for IAF and feasibility of their indigenous development.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Spares are being procured from Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine etc. for those contracted it em spares for which the production units have been closed, fresh procurement action is being initiated. In-house expertise of technical personnel has been availed for production and maintenance of the imported equipments.

Deployment of submarines near West coast of Gujarat by Pakistan

317. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of submarines deployed by Pakistan near the West coast of Gujarat;

(b) the reasons behind such deployment;

(c) the number of infantry troops and tanks, bombers deployed by them; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) and (b) Submarines are usually deployed on routine opeational patrol for monitoring shipping activity off the coast. Intelligence reports indicated recent presence of a Pakistani submarine in the west of Gujarat Coast.

(c) Opposite Akhnoor sector, elements of two Pakistan infanty divisio s and two armoured formations are present, ostensibly for training. Similarly, opposite Ganganagar sector, elements of one Pakistan infantry division and one armoured formation have